WE CLAIM:

1. A method of modulating homing of T cells to the pancreas comprising contacting the cells with an agonist or an antagonist of the chemokine CCL21, in an amount sufficient to modulate homing of T cells to the pancreas.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the agonist or antagonist modulates the function of CCL21.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the agonist or antagonist modulates CCL21 activity.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the agonist or antagonist modulates CCL21 expression.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the agonist or antagonist modulates the interaction between CCL21 and a chemokine receptor of the T cells.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the chemokine receptor is CCR7.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the chemokine receptor is CXCR3.

8. The method of claim 3, wherein the agonist or antagonist is an antibody against CCL21.

9. The method of claim 3, wherein the agonist or antagonist is a mutated form or a mimic of CCL21.

10. The method of claim 3, wherein the agonist or antagonist is a peptidomimetic.

11. A method of modulating homing of T cells to the pancreas comprising contacting the cells with an agonist or an antagonist of a chemokine receptor of the T cells, in an amount sufficient to modulate homing of T cells to the pancreas.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the agonist or antagonist modulates the function of the chemokine receptor.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the agonist or antagonist modulates the chemokine receptor activity.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the agonist or antagonist modulates the chemokine receptor expression.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the agonist or antagonist modulates the interaction between the chemokine receptor and CCL21.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein the chemokine receptor is CCR7.

17. The method of claim 11, wherein the chemokine receptor is CXCR3.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein the agonist or antagonist is an antibody against the chemokine receptor.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein the agonist or antagonist is a mutated form or a mimic of the chemokine receptor.

20. The method of claim 13, wherein the agonist or antagonist is a peptidomimetic.

21. A method of treating an individual suffering from insulin-dependent diabetes, comprising administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of

an antagonist of the chemokine CCL21, wherein the antagonist blocks homing of T cells to the pancreas and thereby prevents damage to the insulin-producing β cells.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the agonist or antagonist modulates the function of CCL21.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the antagonist inhibits CCL21 activity.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the antagonist inhibits CCL21 expression.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein the antagonist inhibits the interaction between CCL21 and a chemokine receptor of the T cells.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the chemokine receptor is CCR7.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein the chemokine receptor is CXCR3.

28. The method of claim 23, wherein the antagonist is an antibody against CCL21.

29. The method of claim 23, wherein the antagonist is a mutated form of CCL21 or a CCL21 mimic..

30. The method of claim 23, wherein the antagonist is a peptidomimetic.

31. The method of claim 21, wherein the antagonist of the chemokine CCL21 is administered with another compound for treating insulin-dependent diabetes.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the compound is insulin.

33. A method of treating an individual suffering from insulin-dependent diabetes, comprising administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist of a chemokine receptor of the T cells, wherein the antagonist blocks homing of T cells to the pancreas and thereby prevents damage to the insulin-producing β cells.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the agonist or antagonist modulates the function of the chemokine receptor.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the antagonist inhibits the chemokine receptor activity.

36. The method of claim 34, wherein the antagonist inhibits the chemokine receptor expression.

37. The method of claim 35, wherein the antagonist inhibits the interaction between the chemokine receptor and CCL21.

38. The method of claim 33, wherein the chemokine receptor is CCR7.

39. The method of claim 33, wherein the chemokine receptor is CXCR3.

40. The method of claim 35, wherein the antagonist is an antibody against the chemokine receptor.

41. The method of claim 35, wherein the antagonist is a mutated form or a mimic of the chemokine receptor.

42. The method of claim 35, wherein the antagonist is a peptidomimetic.

43. The method of claim 33, wherein the antagonist of the chemokine receptor is administered with another compound for treating insulin-dependent diabetes.

44. The method of claim 43, wherein the compound is insulin.

45. A method of modulating homing of T cells to the pancreas in an individual, comprising administering to the individual an agonist or an antagonist of the chemokine CCL21 in an amount sufficient to modulate homing of T cells to the pancreas.

46. A method of modulating homing of T cells to the pancreas in an individual, comprising administering to the individual an agonist or an antagonist of a chemokine receptor in an amount sufficient to modulate homing of T cells to the pancreas.

47. A method of preventing or reducing the onset of insulin-dependent diabetes in an individual, comprising administering to the individual an effective amount of an antagonist of CCL21, wherein the antagonist is effective to prevent or reduce the onset of insulin-dependent diabetes.

48. A method of preventing or reducing the onset of insulin-dependent diabetes in an individual, comprising administering to the individual an effective amount of an antagonist of a chemokine receptor of the T cells, wherein the antagonist is effective to prevent or reduce the onset of insulin-dependent diabetes.